

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 113933 TOSEC 040315
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 NEA-10 SSM-03 NSC-05
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01
/042 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O DPFOTENHAUER
APPROVED BY S/S-O BPERITO
S/S-O: KMCCORMICK
-----180602Z 055844 /23
O 180531Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 113933 TOSEC 040315

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ELECTIONS

1. EMBASSY TEL AVIV BELIEVES THAT, WITH ONE-THIRD OF THE
ISRAELI VOTE IN, LABOR HAS SUSTAINED A STUNNING DEFEAT
WHILE LIKUD IS LIKELY TO EMERGE AS ISRAEL'S STRONGEST
PARTY IN THE KUESSET WITH 41 SEATS. IN A CONVERSATION
WITH THE OPERATIONS CENTER AT 0615 PARIS TIME, EMBASSY
TEL AVIV REPORTED THAT THE PROJECTED ISRAELI ELECTORAL
RESULTS WERE:

& LIKUD 41 SEATS
LABOR 33
DMC 15
NRP 12
RAKAH 5

EMBASSY TEL AVIV STRESSED THE UNPRECEDENTED NATURE OF
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THE ELECTORAL RESULTS, STATING THAT NEITHER LABOR NOR
LIKUD SEEMED PREPARED FOR THE UPSET.

2. EMBASSY TEL AVIV BELIEVES IT LIKELY THAT LIKUD WILL
ATTEMPT TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH THE DEMOCRATIC
MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE (DMC) AND NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP)
BUT CAUTIONS THAT SUCH A COALITION, IF FORMED, WOULD BE

POLITICALLY UNSTABLE BECAUSE THE DMC'S POSITION ON
ISSUE SUCH AS ELECTORAL REFORM DIFFERS MARKEDLY FROM
THAT OF LIKUD AND THE NRP. EMBASSY TEL AVIV DOES NOT
EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT A GRAND COALITION MAY BE
FORMED.

3. EMBASSY TEL AVIV BELIEVES THAT TWO ISSUES ARE
SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN TERMS OF EXPLAINING LABOR'S
POOR SHOWING AT THE POLLS:

--THE UNCERTAINTY OF CURRENT US/ISRAELI RELATIONS; AND

--THE RECENT FLAP OVER THE ARMS TRANSFER PRIORITY ISSUE
IN THE US CONGRESS.

APPARENTLY, THE ISRAELI ELECTORATE FORESEES HARD TIMES
AHEAD AND HAS PREPARED TO BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES BY
TAKING A STRONG SWING TO THE RIGHT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, ELECTION FORECASTS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE113933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O DPFOTENHAUER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770176-0415
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770542/aaaabkqv.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08bee390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2466196
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08bee390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009